

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

NEA-10 /170 W

-----051423 040834Z /10

P 012356Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5537

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 10062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CA

SUBJECT: POLITICAL LEVERAGE OF WEST COAST FISHERMEN'S

UNION ON OTTAWA

REF: VANCOUVER 1102; B. OTTAWA 9837

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM INFORMED GOC SOURCE WHO WORKS WITH FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LE BLANC THAT INFLUENCE OF UNITED FISHERMEN AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (UFAWU) ON MINISTER'S INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY DECISIONS HAS DIMINISHED.

2. WHEN LE BLANC FIRST TOOK UP FISHERIES PORTFOLIO IN 1974 HE WAS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM FROM WEST COAST FISHERMEN. BEING FROM AN EAST COAST RIDING WHERE FISHING INTERESTS PREDOMINATE, HE BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO  
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AVOID ANY HINT OF FAVORITISM FOR EAST COAST FISHERMEN. THIS CONSIDERATION, COMBINED WITH VERY EFFECTIVE LOBBYING BY UFAWU OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN CABINET AND HOUSE, GAVE THE WEST COAST UNION SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL LEVERAGE ON LE BLANC.

3. GOC SOURCE SAYS THAT NOW, HOWEVER, LE BLANC HAS

LEARNED THAT HE CANNOT WORK WITH UFAWU AS HE CAN WITH EAST COAST FISHERMEN WHO, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE AT TIMES CRITICAL, NEVERTHELESS CAN BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO REACHING AGREEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. UFAWU, ON OTHER HAND, CHARACTERIZES ANY GOC NEGOTIATING CONCESSION AS A "SELL OUT." NOTHING LE BLANC DOES IS RIGHT AS FAR AS UFAWU IS CONCERNED.

4. BECAUSE HE IS IN NO-WIN SITUATION WITH UFAWU, LE BLANC HAS TOUGHENED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM OVER THE LAST YEAR. HE NOW TENDS TO TELL FISHERIES MINISTRY OFFICIALS, "LET'S MAKE UP OUR OWN MINDS ON POLICY AND RIDE OUT FLACK FROM UFAWU."

5. COMMENT: ABOVE ASSESSMENT THAT UFAWU'S INFLUENCE ON LE BLANC HAS DIMINISHED CONFORMS WITH APPARENT CONFIDENCE HE DISPLAYED IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REPORTED REFTEL B. ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH FISHING INDUSTRY AND PARTICULARLY UFAWU ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ISSUES, LE BLANC NEVERTHELESS CONVEYED CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT FOR MOMENT AT LEAST HE COULD CONTAIN DISSENT. ENDERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 VANCOUVER 1102, 77 OTTAWA 9837  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009